

US-Japan trade flare-up

Washington feels ahead, not behind

NEW YORK, Feb 17: The flare-up in trade tension between the United States and Japan is happening in a much different atmosphere than earlier disputes — America feels ahead instead of behind.

That's chiefly because the US economy is growing while Japan is in a recession.

But US companies also have learned many lessons from the Japanese in the past decade, adopting some business practices and rejecting others.

Those changes produced such strength in previously worrisome industries, like automobiles and computers, that some Japanese news accounts have dubbed the United States the "Rising Sam." The cover art of a recent issue of Nikkei Business magazine, for instance, showed Uncle Sam looming over the Pacific.

Such a perception gives US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor extra leverage in threatening sanctions against Japan, as he did Tuesday. But it also projects a bully image to Japan at a time when its resources and choices are limited.

"It's ironic that the American administration has come around to getting tough at a time when it looks like we'll do perfectly fine without expending so much energy in this respect," said Gerald

Curtis, a Columbia University professor and author on Japanese politics.

"The way we might explain that, and this is conjecture, is the president is still campaigning," Curtis said.

Arthur Alexander, president of the Japan Economic Institute, a research and policy group supported by the Japanese government, said President Clinton's militant position on trade reflects his own political constituency.

"He won the campaign on jobs issues and it's been difficult for him to back away from that," Alexander said.

The core dispute is the same that's existed for years — the United States imports tens of billions of dollars more goods from Japan than Japan does from the United States. On Thursday, the government is expected to report new figures that show the 1993 US trade deficit with Japan reached \$60 billion.

Government experts, academics and others differ on the economic importance of the trade deficit, chiefly because many Japanese and American companies own subsidiaries and employ people in each country.

But it is a political liability for any American president, since imports from other countries are viewed, often erroneously, as costing jobs in the United States.

The last time a way of worry about Japan swelled was two years ago when President Bush led US auto and other executives on a trade trip there.

The journey was remembered most for a flu-stricken Bush vomiting at a state dinner, a detail that symbolized the meager outcome of the discussions and a perception that the United States was in a sickly decline. It also led to a short-lived "Buy American" campaign in this country.

Since then, the US auto industry has rebounded strongly. Although they have yet to achieve any significant sales in Japan, sales of US-branded vehicles in the United States have been increasing at double-digit percentage rates.

The United States is expected to overtake Japan this year as the world's biggest vehicle producer for the first time in 13 years. In late December, Ford Motor Co took a bigger role in running Mazda Motor Corp, where it once turned for management lessons.

The turnaround is more keen in high technology. US companies are driving a worldwide shift from big computers to networks of less expensive, small machines. Phone and cable companies are

pushing the development of powerful voice, data and video connections.

US businesses use personal computers at four times the rate of those in Japan. One in three US households own a PC but the machines are virtually unheard of in a Japanese home.

"I strongly believe that Japan is slipping behind the US and even other industrialized nations as far as implementing computer technology," said Eric Lim, analyst at Fuji-Kerisel USA, the American subsidiary of a large Japanese market research firm.

Last year, sales of semiconductors in North America, chiefly the United States, eclipsed those in the Asia Pacific region, mainly Japan, for the first time since 1985.

Cellular phones, Kantor's first sanctions target, are used by fewer than 2 per cent of Japanese compared to about 5 per cent of the US population.

The reversal of Japan's economic fortune was displayed further on Monday, when Aoki Corp, a large Japanese property developer, said it was selling much of the Westin Hotels and resort chain. Its 1987 purchase of the chain was one of the biggest Japanese takeovers of an American business.

Material processing trade in China up by 13.4 pc

BEIJING, Feb 17: China's trade in processing imported raw materials for export soared 13.4 per cent to 80.6 billion dollars last year, accounting for more than 40 per cent of total foreign trade, the China Daily said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The trade has boomed in China's eastern coastal regions in recent years, with a large number of firms processing imported raw materials into higher value goods for export, such as machinery and electronics, shoes, textile and dolls.

While China posted a 12.18 billion dollar trade deficit last year, the processing sector posted a surplus of 7.9 billion dollars, although that figure was down from the 1992 level of 8.1 billion dollars due to sluggish export prices, the newspaper quoted customs officials as saying. Exports from

the processing trade rose 11.7 per cent to 44.2 billion dollars in 1993 — comprising 48 per cent of China's total exports — while imports of raw materials were up 15.4 per cent at 36.3 billion dollars.

Although some 94 per cent of the processing trade is centered in the coastal provinces of Guangdong, Fujian and Jiangsu, the newspaper said the focus was likely to shift to poorer inland provinces as the developed coastal areas switch to capital and technological-intensive projects. The majority of China's exports of garments, luggage and shoes are produced with raw materials supplied by Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea. More than half the exports ended up in the United States, Japan and the European Union, with a combined value of 24.1 billion dollars.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on February 17 and 18.

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	TT & OD	EC	OD	Transfer
US Dollar	40.1225	40.1525	39.9200	39.8360
Pound Sterling	59.2409	59.2852	58.4602	58.3372
DM	23.3757	23.3932	23.0196	22.9712
Franc	6.8665	6.8716	6.7615	6.7473
C Dollar	30.0515	30.0740	29.5803	29.5181
S Franc	27.6754	27.6961	27.2431	27.1858
Jap Yen	0.3913	0.3915	0.3812	0.3804
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2825	1.2863	1.2722	1.2564
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3193	1.3233	1.3086	1.2925
Iranian Rial (AMU)	0.0230	0.0231	0.0228	0.0227
A) T. T. (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk	39.8780			
B) Usance Rates:				
30 Days DA	60 Days DA	90 Days DA	120 Days DA	180 Days DA
39.5713	39.2885	39.0057	38.7230	38.1574
C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk	39.8360			
D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale:	Tk. 40.5525			

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	T.T. & O.D.	O.D.	O.D.	Transfer
S Riyal	10.6993	10.6993	10.5892	10.5892
UAE Dirham	10.9257	10.9257	10.8111	10.8111
Kuwaiti Dinar	135.6727	135.6727	134.2409	134.2409
Singapore Dollar	25.3811	25.3811	25.1059	25.1059
D Gulder	20.6710	20.6710	20.4545	20.4545
S Kroner	5.0201	5.0201	4.9657	4.9657

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on: 17/02/94						
Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Morning Star	M Seed(P)	Vank	CCNL	13/02	22/02
J/2	Salem Nine	SSP	Aldab	MSA	13/02	23/02
J/3	Gold Finch	Mop(P)	Ukma	MSA	04/02	22/02
J/4	Hang Cheong	Cement	Sing	PSAL	06/02	20/02
J/5	Al Reza	Wheat (G)	K. Dia	BSL	15/02	20/02
J/6	Hang Wan	Cement	S. Hai	BDSHP	31/01	01/02
J/7	Dolores	Idle	Seacom	R/A	28/02	
J/8	*Al Tafstr	Wheat (G)	K. Dia	BSL	16/02	19/02
J/9	Oun Chong					
	Nyon Ho	Cement	Sing	Litmond	03/02	22/02
J/10	lokasti	Cement	Tuti	Litmond	01/01	09/01
J/11	Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	BDSHP	16/02	19/02
MPB/2	I Yamburenko	Cont	Sing	CT	15/02	18/02
CCJ	Arcaida	C. Clink	Viza	CSL	10/02	11/02
CSJ	*Al Tabith	Wheat (G)	K. Dia	BSL	R/A	13/02
TSP	Georgios-M	R. Rhos	Agaba	SSST	15/02	25/02
RM/3	Global Juno	CPO	Seacom	16/02	18/02	
RM/4	Ronjay Victory	Cement	Viza	USTC	07/01	22/02
DDJ/2	*Banglar Asha	Repair		BSC	R/A	17/02
RM/9	Moskovskiy	Idle	Tuti	ANCL	07/02	20/02

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Inke Wehr	17/02	Sing	APUB	Cont	USA
Golden Lake	17/02	Duba	Prog	GI	
Banglar Baari	17/02	Mong	BSC	In Ballast	
Kornat	17/02	Sing	SSST	Wheat (G)	B. Acha
Blue Ocean	17/02	Cal	Cross	L/Yang	
Sea Nymph	20/02	Viza	PSAL	Cement	
Banglar Moni	18/02	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sin
Cherry	18/02	Sing	SSST	Wheat	B. Acha
Dorianne	22/02	Haid	MHL	Wheat	
United Spirit	18/02	Sing	PSAL	Cement	Sing
Meng Kiat	19/02	Cal	AML	Cont	Sing
Tiger Hope	18/02	BUSA	Prog	GI	
Luna-II	19/02	Sing	Prog	Wheat (G)	Sing
Infinity	19/02	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Ivan Vazov	19/02	Cont	OTL	GI	P. Land
Tanary Star	19/02	Tuti	USTC	Cement	
Robert-e Lee	20/02	Pand	Karna	GI	
Vishva Parijat	24/02	SSL	GI	UK Cont.	
Qing He Cheng	21/02	S. Hai	BDSHP	GI	C Ports
San Mateo	21/02	Sing	JF	Vehicles	

Tanker due

Team Storeviken	18/02	Sing	MSPL	SKO/JP-1	W/LT
Gemini	18/02	Sing	MSPL	HSD	W/LT

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Vessels at Kutubdia/Outside port limit

Chestnrt Hill	Wheat(G)	Sing	BSL	11/02
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Vessels ready

Dooyang Brave	C. Clink	Vish	CCNL	16/02
Chang	E. Oil	Sing	MSPL	16/02

Movement of vessels for: 17/02/94

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
18/2		
MPB-2	I Yamburenko 7.2	J/3 Tiger
GSJ	Al Tafstr-6.0	J/5/8 Blue Ocean
RM-3	Global Juno	RM-6 Team
RM-6	Chang	MPB-2 B Moni
DDJ/1 B	Banni	
19/2		
MPB-1	Fong Shin	MPB-1 Infinity
		J/12 Meng Kiat

The above were the Thursday's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA Supplied by HRC Group Dhaka.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on February 17, 1994

Beximco leads gainers

Star Report

The gainers, led by the Beximco Ltd in terms of volume, dominated the gainers' list on Thursday, the closing day of the week.

The Beximco's 10500 shares were traded at the rate of Taka 66.36 as against Taka 57.43 of the previous day.

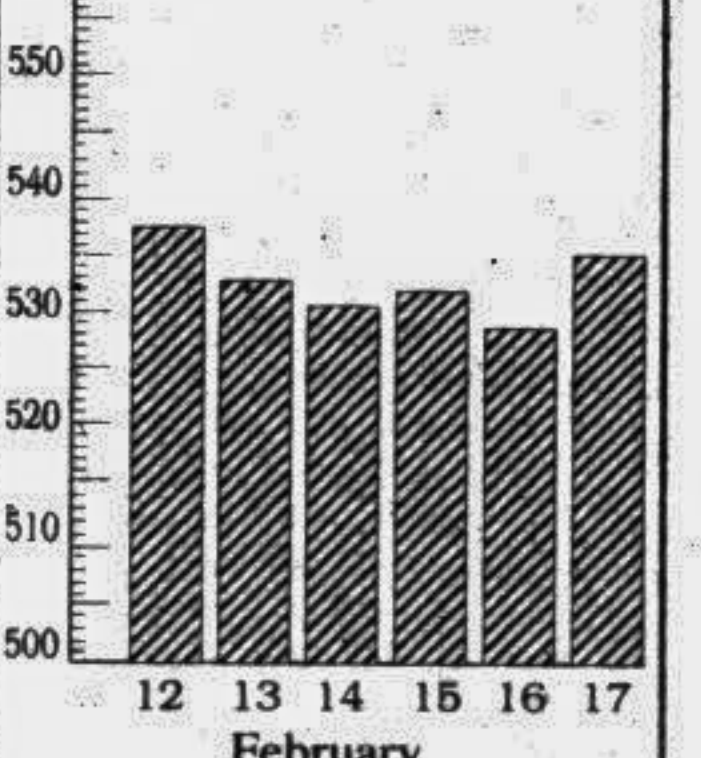
The Beximco Synthetic (4180) and the Ctg Cement (2410) also gained significantly in terms of volume.

The Apex Food Ltd, with a rise of Taka 300.00 per share, led the 11 losers out of 38 issues in terms of value. Among others, 21 gained and six remained unchanged.

The Ambee Pharma (1800) topped the losers' list in terms of volume.

Both the turnovers on the DSE declined. The volume incurred a loss of 20.04 per cent while the value decreased by 10.92 per cent.

A total of 24144 shares worth Taka 3986577.50 changed hands as against 30195.75 shares valued at



DSE Shares and Debentures

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)
BANKS (12)		
Al-Baraka Bank	1000/1	805.00
A.B. Bank	100/5	175.00
City Bank	100/5	290.00
Eastern Bank	100/20	110.00
IDLC Ltd	100/20	260.00
LFIC	100/5	155.13
Islami Bank	1000/1	1407.00
National Bank	100/5	120.00
Pubali Bank	100/5	100.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	80.00
U.C.B.L.	100/5	108.00
Uttara Bank	100/5	90.00

INVESTMENT (6)	
LCB	100/5 110.00
1st ICB M. Fund	100/5 700.00
2nd ICB M. Fund	100/5 190.00
3rd ICB M. Fund	100/5 159.00
4th ICB M. Fund	100/10 160.00
5th ICB M. Fund	100/10 133.92
6th ICB M. Fund	100/10 96.02
ICB Unit Cert.	
Sales Price	118.00
Re-purchase	113.00

INSURANCE (4)		
BOIC	100/10	305.00
Green Delta	100/10	272.00
Peoples Insurance	100/10	405.00
United Insurance	100/10	275.00

ENGINEERING (19)		
Atiab Automobiles	100/5	216.21
Atlas Bangladesh	10/50	50.00
Agia Pipes	100/5	291.00
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5	30.00
Bangladesh Lamps	100/10	80.00
B. Thai Aluminium	100/10	96.00
Bengal Carbide	100/5	502.56
Bengal Steel	100/5	20.00
Eastern Cables	100/5	81.00
Howlader PVC	100/10	74.00
Karin Pipe	100/5	80.66
Metalex Corp.	100/5	39.00
Monno Staffers	100/5	340.00
Monno Jute	100/5	1000.00
National Tubes	100/10	57.00
Panther Steel	10/50	8.00
Quasem Drycells	10/50	11.50
Renwick Jangsewar	100/5	70.00
Singer Bangladesh	100/5	1655.00

FOOD & ALLIED (28)		
A.B. Biscuit	100/5	199.00
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	50.00
Amam Sea Food	100/5	105.00
Apex Food	100/5	800.00
Aroma Tea	100/5	45.13
Bangas	100/5	140.00
B.D. Plantation	100/5	500.00
Bengal Food	100/5	167.57
B.L.T.C.	100/5	800.00
B.T.C.	10/50	180.00
Ctg. Vegetables	100/10	98.75
Dhaka Vegetables	100/5	87.96
E.L. Camella	100/5	1040.00
Frogging Export	10/50	2.00
Gemini Sea Food	100/5	36.00
Hill Plantation	100/5	550.00
Modern Industries	100/5	400.00
N.T.C.	100/52	275.00
Rabeya Flour	10/100	NT
Rupan Oil	10/100	3.38
Tulip Dairy	100/10	68.00
Yousuf Flour	10/50	NT
Zeal Bangla Sugar	10/50	6.50

FUEL & POWER (4)		
BD Oxygen	10/00	166.00
Eastern Lubricant	10/50	14.00
National Oxygen	100/10	74.33
Padma Oil Co	10/50	48.00

TEXTILE (30)		
Alhaj Textile	10/50	NT
Arbee Textile	100/10	112.00
Ashraf Textile	10/50	27.60
Chand Textile	10/50	NT
Chand Spinning	10/50	NT
Desh Garments	100/10	50.00
Dulamia Cotton	100/10	77.00
Eagle Star Textile	10/50	12.50
GMG Ind Corp	10/50	10.00
Modern Dyeing	100/5	35.00

OOD & ALLIED (23)			Himadri Ltd.	10/100	6.00
	100/5	199.00	Niml Tannery	100/5	5.00
B Biscuit			Monno Ceramic	1 00/5	492.37
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	50.00	New Dhaka Refac	100/20	89.17
Amam Sea Food	100/5	105.00	Phoenix Leather	100/5	115.00
Alpha Food	100/5	800.00	Savar Refractories	100/5	60.00
Gamma Tea	100/5	45.13	The Engineers	100/5	100.00
Angara	100/5	140.00	Tanaka	100/5	100.00